Extension of Rail Line from Dimapur/Dhansiri to Imphal

*191. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the past, there was proposal for extension of railway line from Dimapur/Dhansiri (Assam) to Imphal *via* Jalukie-Peren and for which survey was carried out and submitted for consideration;

(b) if so, what went wrong with the proposal; and

(c) if not, what is the alternative arrangement to extend railway line to Imphal from Assam?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) The work of new line from Diphu (Dhansiri) to Karong as first phase of line to Imphal was included in the Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances. The requisite clearance for the project was received in September, 1998. The proposed line was passing through States of Assam and Nagaland. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Distt. Council protested the railway line as it was passing through Dhansiri reserve forest area under the administrative control of the Council and desired an approach paper on the project. Meanwhile, Chief Minister/Manipur requested to consider alternative alignment from Jiribam to Imphal to provide connectivity to the State Capital of Manipur. The work of new line from Jiribam to Imphal Road (Tupul) was included in the Supplementary Budget 2003-04 in lieu of Diphu (Dhansiri)-Karong new line.

Procurement target of Wheat

†*192. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat production in the country during the current year will be more than the last year;

(b) if so, whether Government have also set any target for the procurement of wheat;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) expected reserves of wheat with the Food Corporation of India on March 31, 2007 after attaining the target of procurement and fulfilling the requirements of PDS and other like schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Second Advance estimates given by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, wheat production in crop year 2005-06 is expected to be 73.06 million tonnes as against 72 million tonnes last year.

(b) and (c) As procurement of wheat is open-ended, there is no fixed target for procurement of wheat. However, based on the estimates given by the wheat procuring States, it is estimated that there is likely to be wheat procurement of 162 lakh tonnes in Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07.

(d) In the year 2006-07, at the current level of scale of issue, the wheat offtake is likely to be around the same level as in the current year. If wheat procurement is as per estimates given by the States, then at the existing level of offtake, wheat stocks at the end of March 2007 is likely to be around 18 lakh tonnes.

AIIMS like Hospital in Bhopal

†*193. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have a plan to set up an AIIMS like hospital in Bhopal and if so, the details of its present status;

(b) the difficulties being faced in setting up the same at the earliest; and

(c) the extent of assistance being provided by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) *inter alia* there is a proposal to set up an AIIMS like Institution at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The State Government required to provide minimum of 100 acres of land for the institution, free

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.